

Fig. 1
(Prior Art)

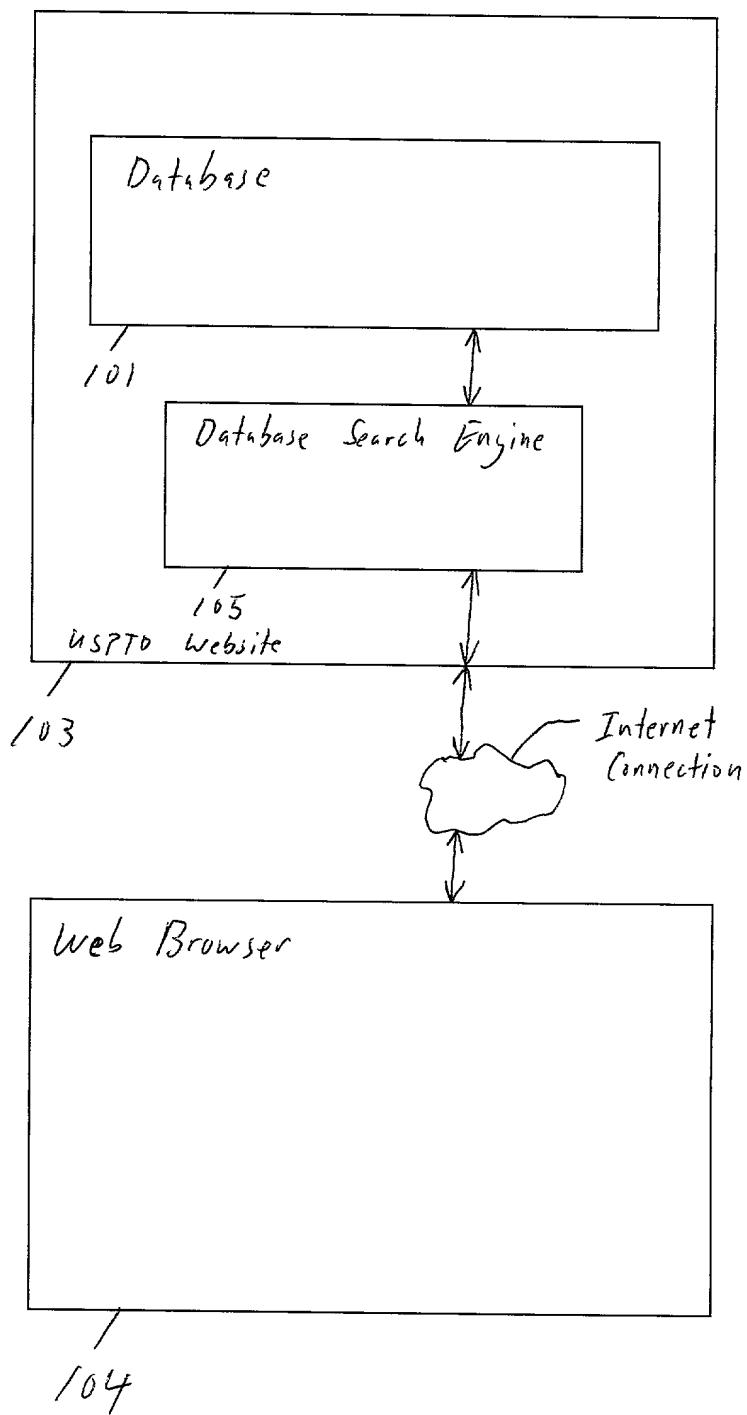


Fig. 2

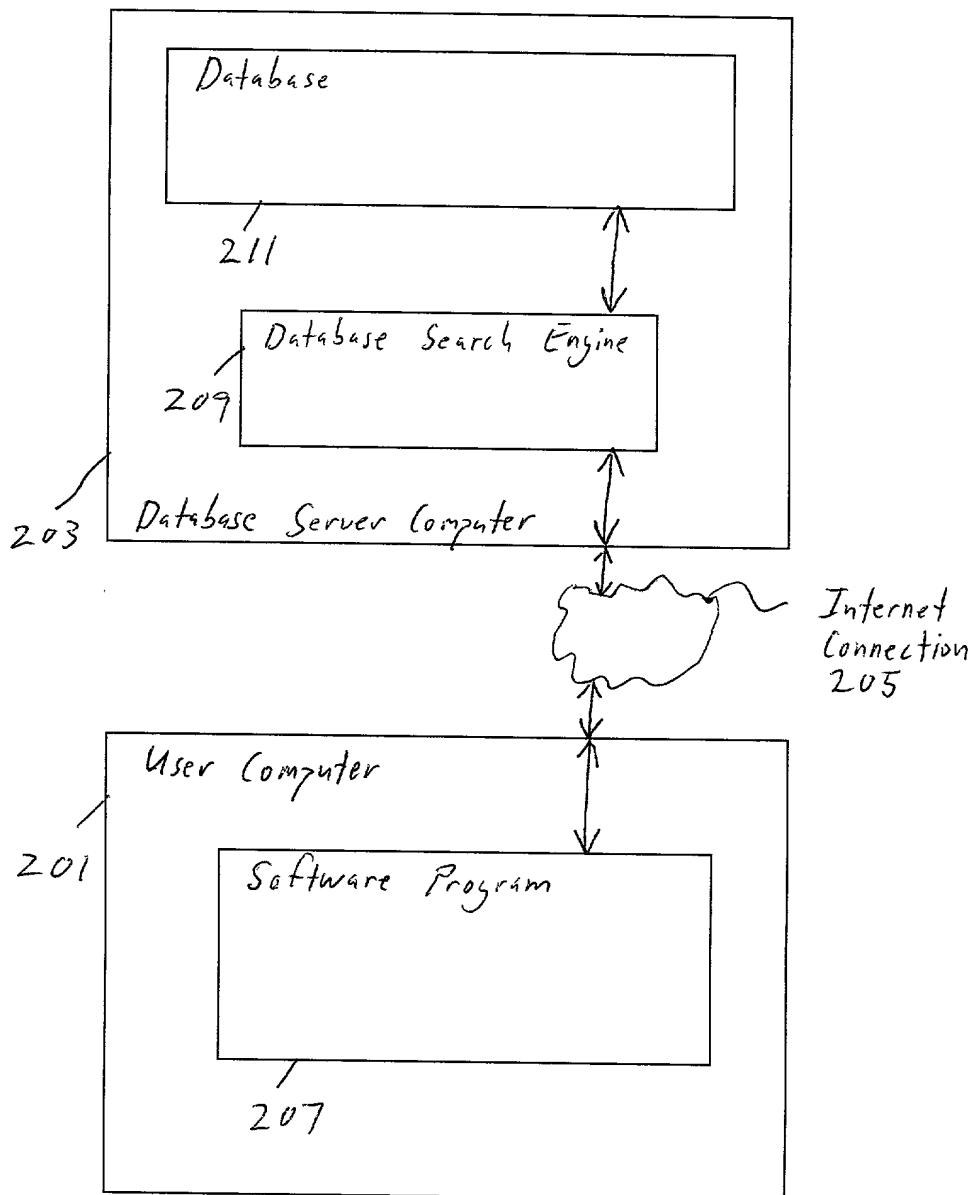


Fig. 3

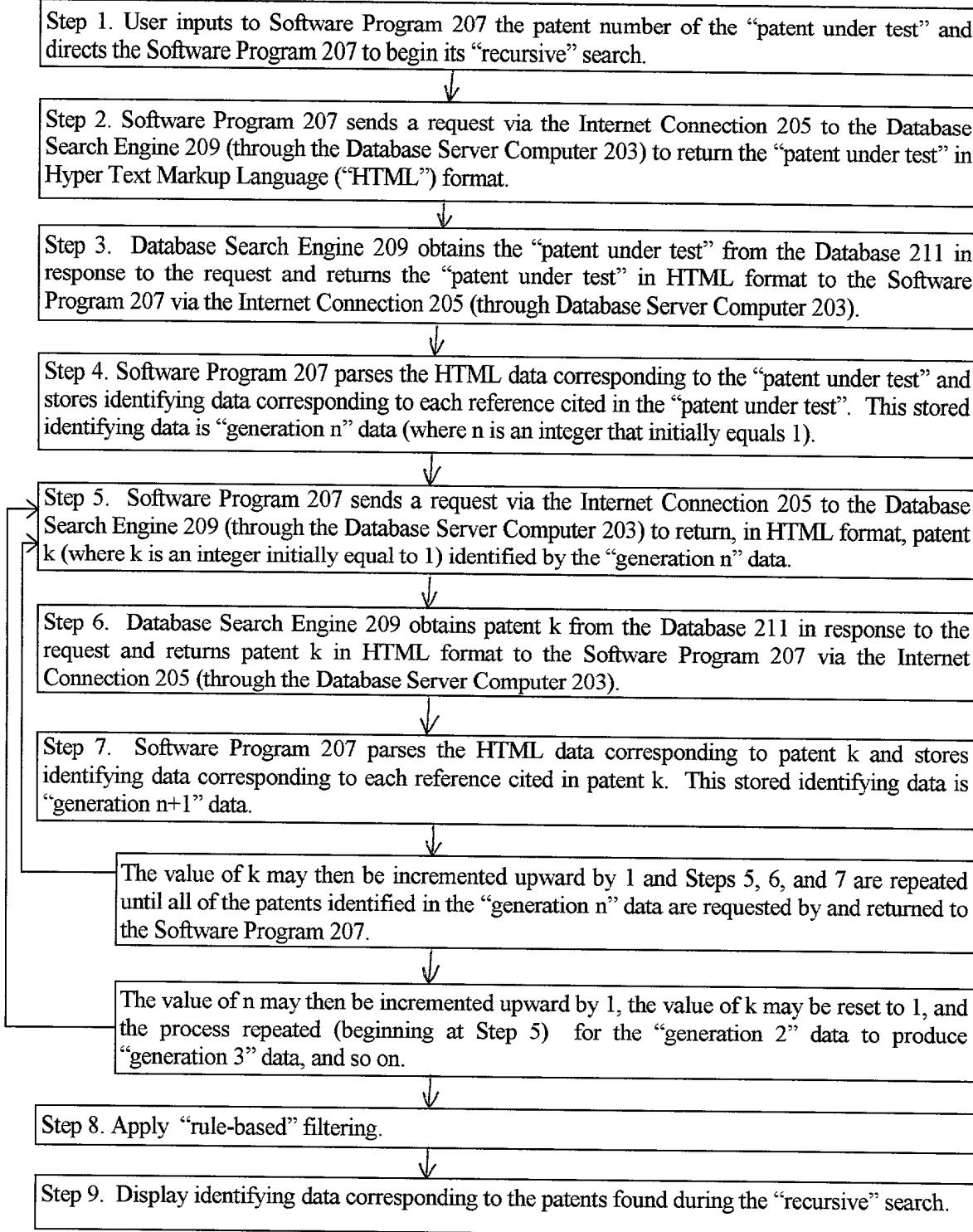


Fig. 4

References				
9,000,123	Jones et al.	June 1995	455/123	Relevant
8,345,123	Hanford et al.	May 1992	455/127	Relevant
7,887,333	Krantz et al.	May 1979	455/323	Relevant
7,002,009	Spencer	Feb. 1977	455/323	Non-Relevant
6,234,900	Paterson et al.	Aug. 1975	475/773	Relevant
8,777,333	Smith et al.	May 1991	455/323	Relevant
8,337,223	Williams	Dec. 1978	355/222	Non-Relevant
8,512,776	Larson et al	April 1981	453/325	Relevant
7,185,452	Vinkler	Nov. 1976	453/165	Relevant

Fig. 5

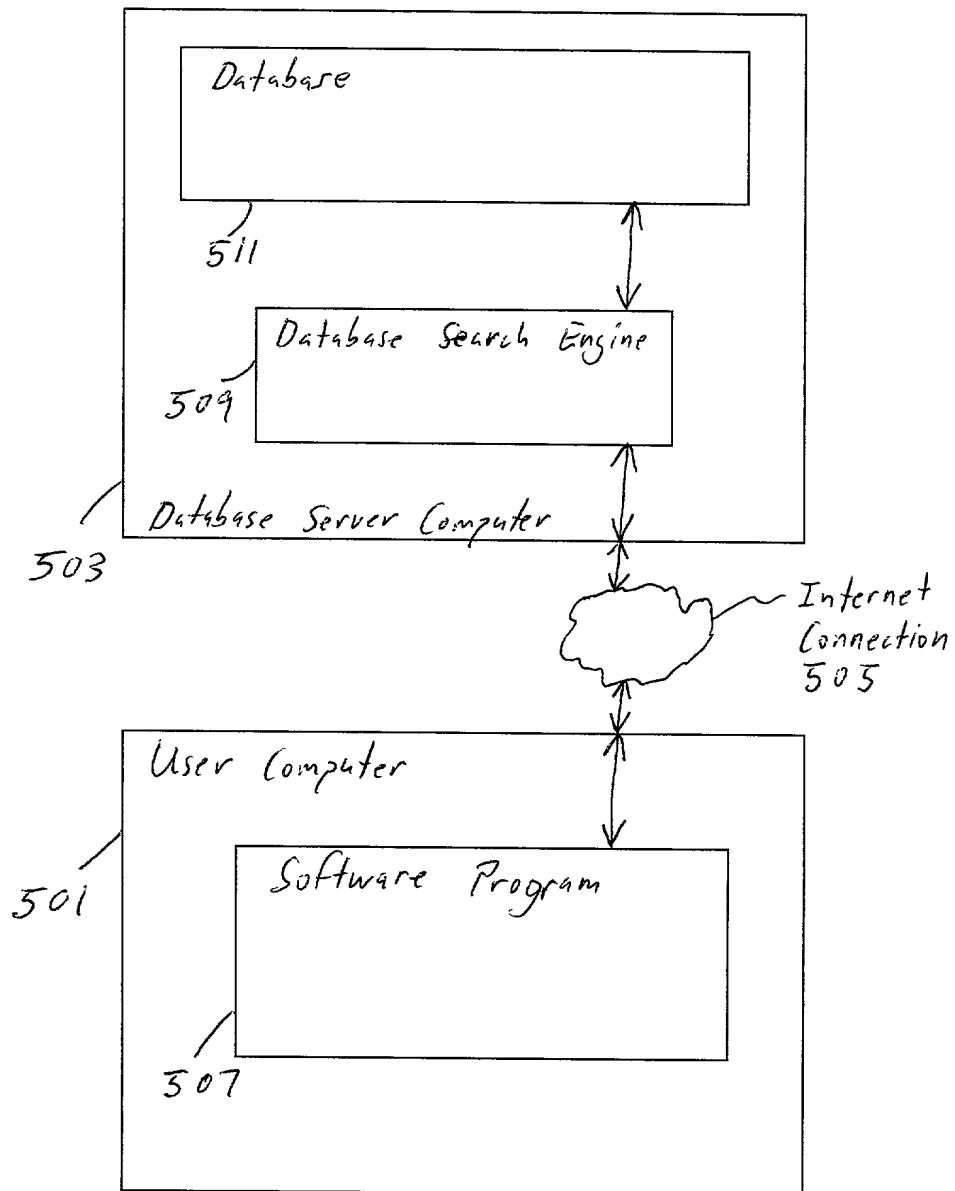


Fig. 6

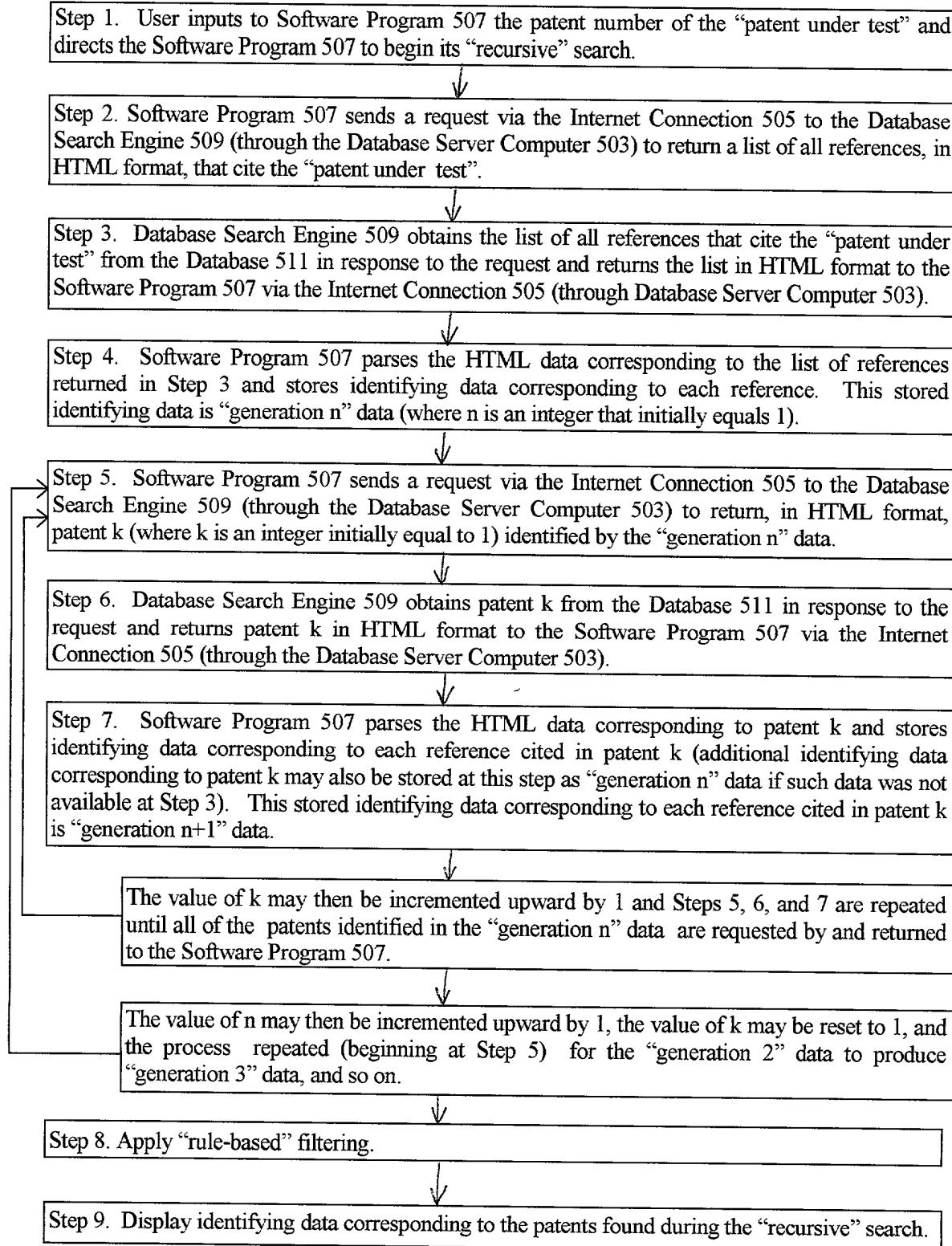


Fig. 7

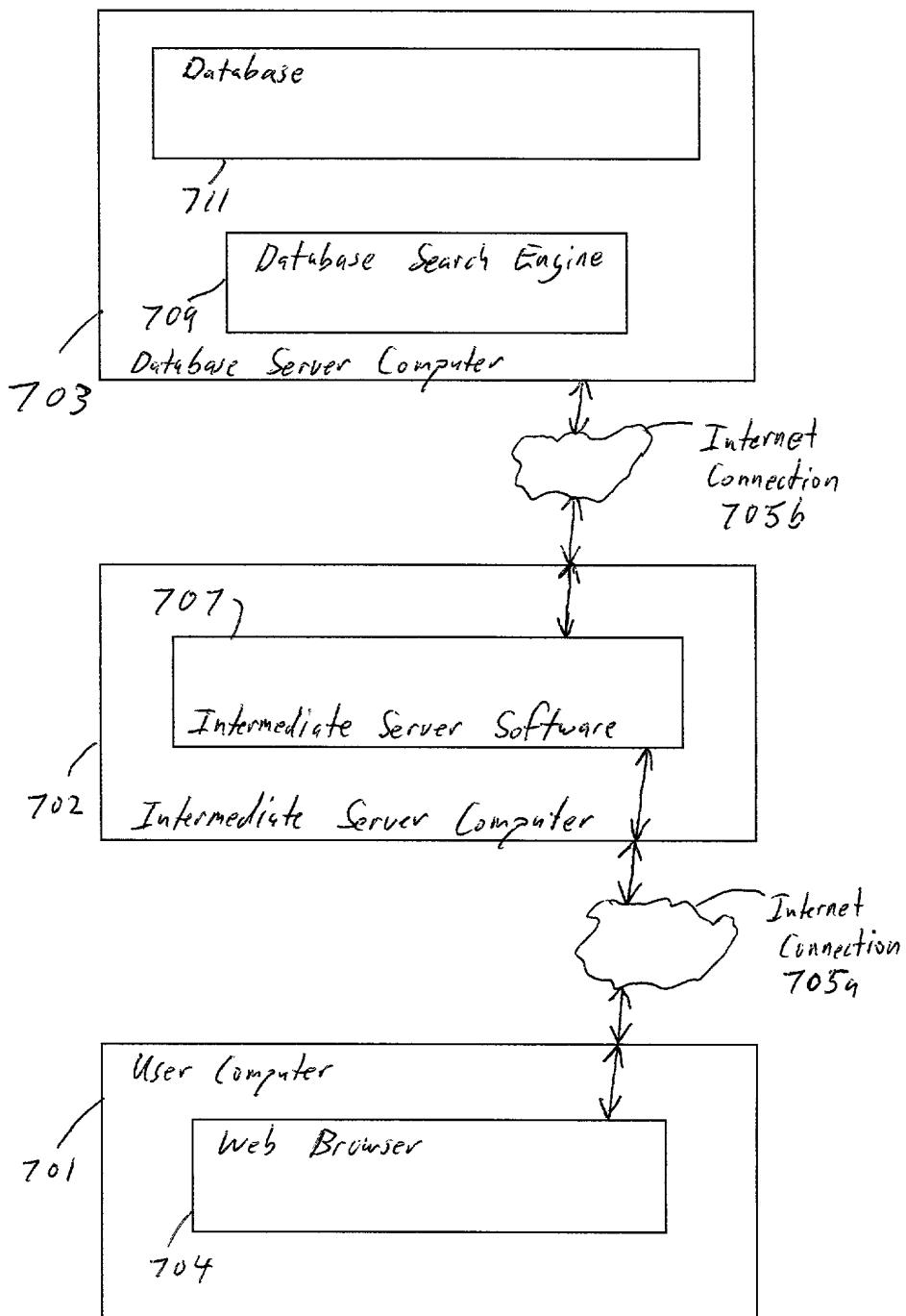


Fig. 8

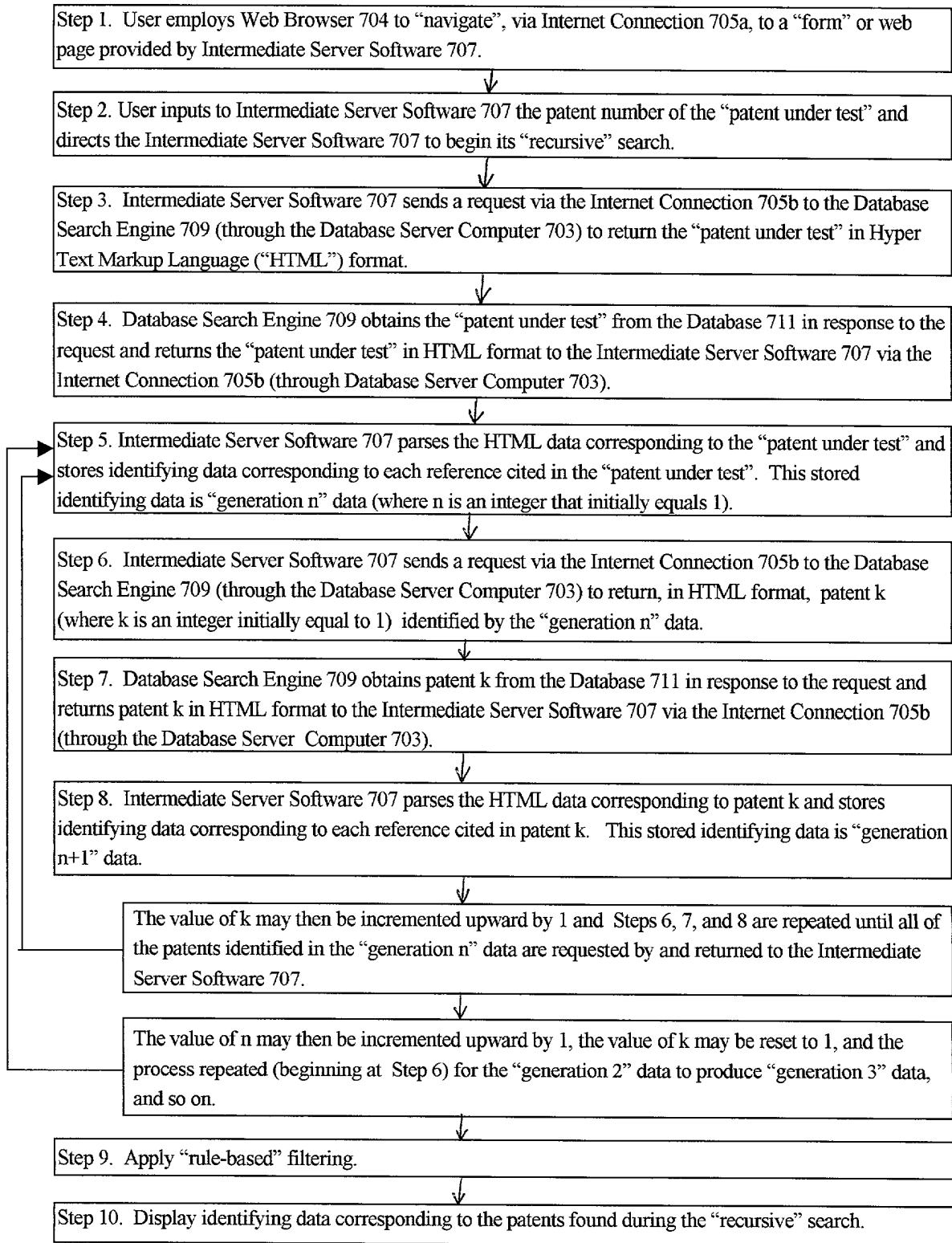


Fig. 9

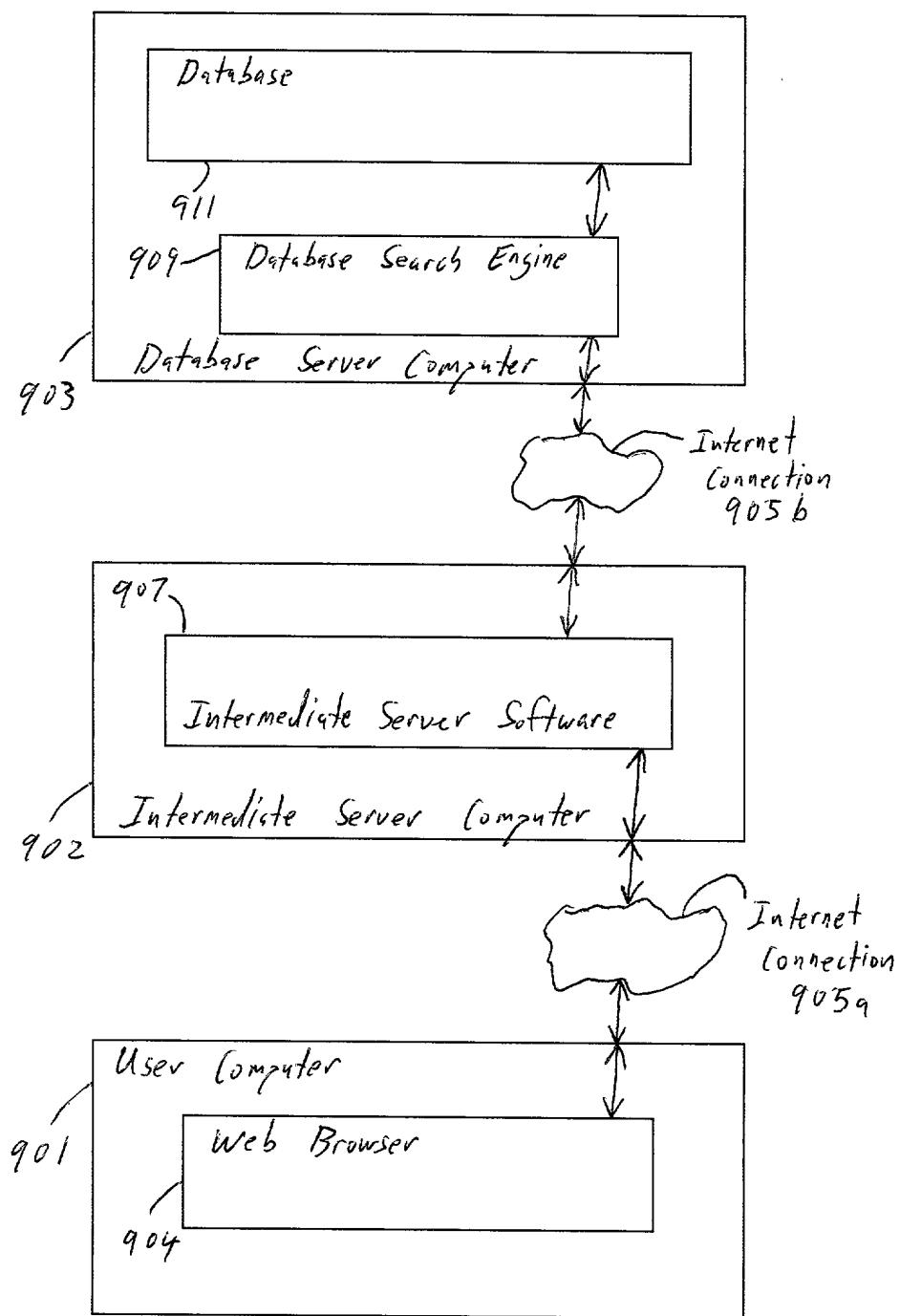


Fig. 10

Step 1. User employs Web Browser 904 to “navigate”, via Internet Connection 905a, to a “form” or web page provided by Intermediate Server Software 907.

↓
Step 2. User inputs to Intermediate Server Software 907 the patent number of the “patent under test” and directs the Intermediate Server Software 907 to begin its “recursive” search.

↓
Step 3. Intermediate Server Software 907 sends a request via the Internet Connection 905b to the Database Search Engine 909 (through the Database Server Computer 903) to return a list of all references, in HTML format, that cite the “patent under test”.

↓
Step 4. Database Search Engine 909 obtains the list of all references that cite the “patent under test” from the Database 911 in response to the request and returns the list in HTML format to the Intermediate Server Software 907 via the Internet Connection 905b (through Database Server Computer 903).

↓
Step 5. Intermediate Server Software 907 parses the HTML data corresponding to the list of references returned in Step 4 and stores identifying data corresponding to each reference. This stored identifying data is “generation n” data (where n is an integer that initially equals 1).

→
Step 6. Intermediate Server Software 907 sends a request via the Internet Connection 905b to the Database Search Engine 909 (through the Database Server Computer 903) to return, in HTML format, patent k (where k is an integer initially equal to 1) identified by the “generation n” data.

↓
Step 7. Database Search Engine 909 obtains patent k from the Database 911 in response to the request and returns patent k in HTML format to the Intermediate Server Software 907 via the Internet Connection 905b (through the Database Server Computer 903).

↓
Step 8. Intermediate Server Software 907 parses the HTML data corresponding to patent k and stores identifying data corresponding to each reference cited in patent k. This stored identifying data is “generation n+1” data.

↓
The value of k may then be incremented upward by 1 and Steps 6, 7, and 8 are repeated until all of the patents identified in the “generation n” data are requested by and returned to the Intermediate Server Software 907.

↓
The value of n may then be incremented upward by 1, the value of k may be reset to 1, and the process repeated (beginning at Step 6) for the “generation 2” data to produce “generation 3” data, and so on.

↓
Step 9. Apply “rule-based” filtering.

↓
Step 10. Display identifying data corresponding to the patents found during the “recursive” search.

Fig. 11

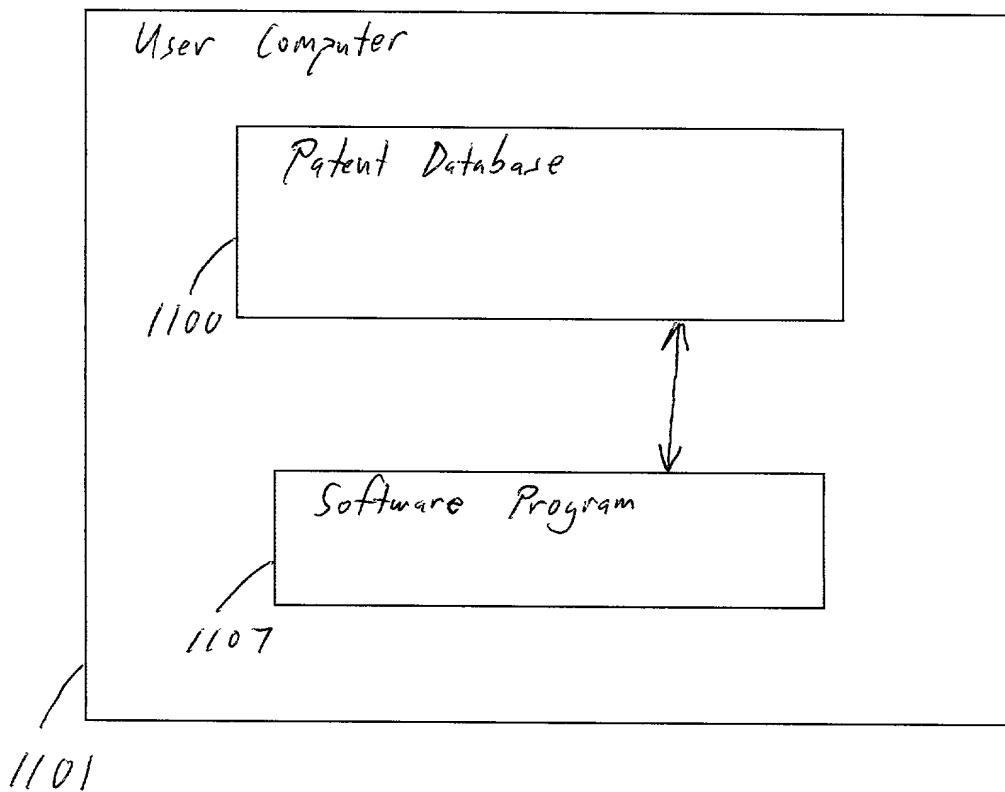


Fig. 12

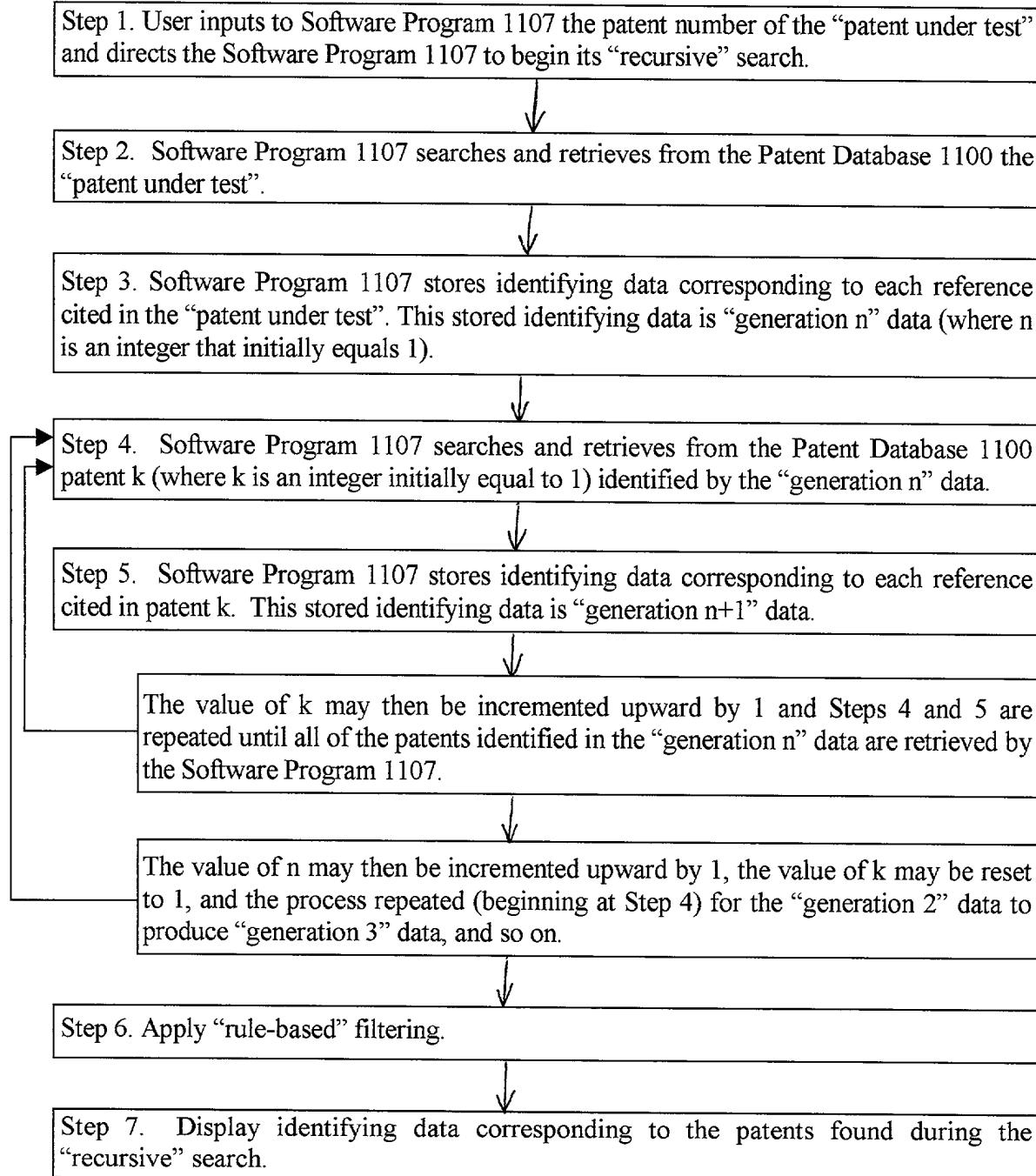


Fig. 13

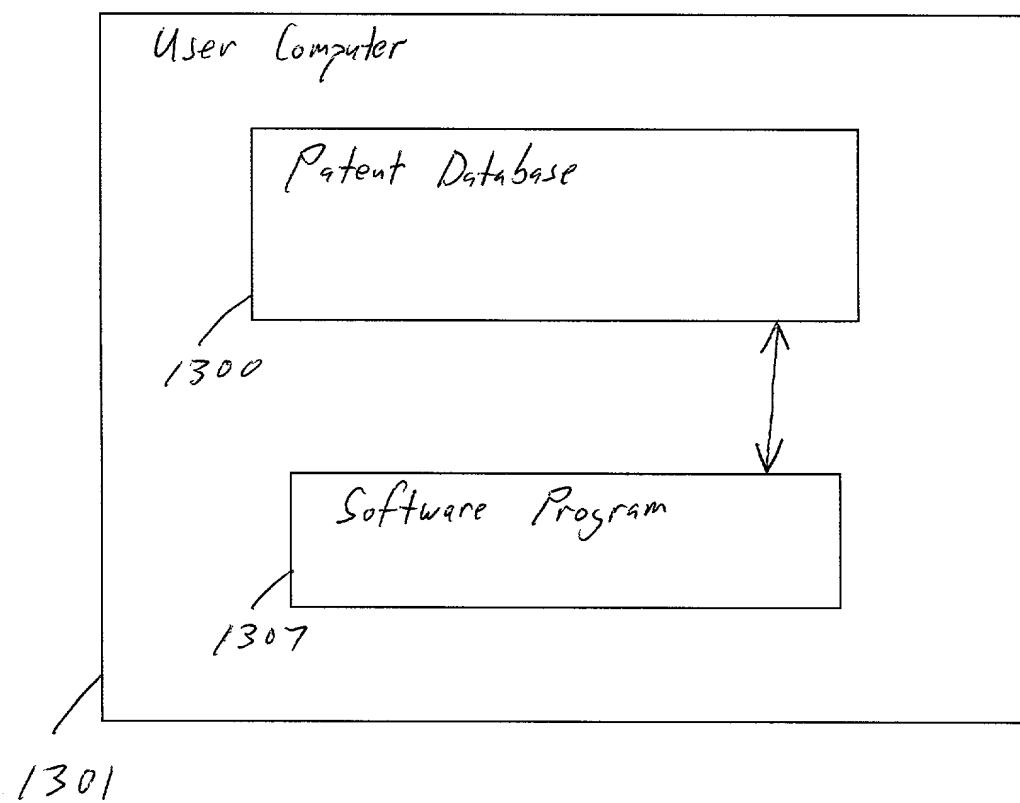


Fig. 14

